

Chicopee Historical Commission Voting Record and Minutes

The Historical Commission of the City of Chicopee public hearing for Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 4:00 PM, in person and via zoom.

The meeting was brought to order at 4:01 PM

Historical Commission Attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Excused
Joshua Clark, Chair			X
Linda Menard-Mruk, Vice Chair	X		
Raymond Hoess-Brooks	X		
Dave Robison	X		
Louise Osetek	X		
Timothy Wagner, Clerk	X		

Planning Staff Attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Excused
Lee Pouliot, Director			X
James Dawson, Development Manager	X		
Nathan Moreau, Assoc. Planner			X

Item 1: Presentation by Silverbrick to update the Commission on the Cabotville Mill Project – Silverbrick is requesting a new letter of support letter from the Commission. The last letter of support was approved in June 2021 for August 2021 submittal.

Notes: Aaron Papowitz of Silverbrick provided the Commission with an update of the Cabotville project. Mr. Papowitz explained Silverbrick had received approximately two million dollars in historic tax credits from MHC to date. He explained that material and construction costs remain high and continued funding is essential to move this project to fruition. Commissioner Osetek asked Mr. Papowitz when Silverbrick acquired the Cabotville property; he replied 2018. He noted that two Special Permits for development were granted to Silverbrick by the City Council but they had since expired and Silverbrick was in the process of re-applying for them. Commissioner Hoess-Brooks inquired about the amount of funding required to move the project ahead; Mr. Papowitz did not have an exact number. Mr. Papowitz stated the Cabotville property was purchased for 7.8 million dollars and his thought was at the time of purchase that two million dollars would be adequate to move the project along. Commissioners expressed their concern for the project if Silverbrick does not move forward with the proposed project in the near future and noted they may not sign any further letters until progress is made.

Motion to approve and sign the support letter was made by Dave Robison and seconded by Linda Menard-Mruk. Vote was 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention.

Member	Approve	Deny	Abstain
Linda Menard-Mruk	X		
Raymond Hoess-Brooks			X
David Robison	X		
Louise Osetek	X		
Timothy Wagner	X		

Item 2: Discussion/New Business:

- Dave Gaby of 219 School Street contacted the Planning Department in September. He asked to attend the Historical Commission meeting on October 12, 2021 to discuss restoration work being planned at 219 School Street and any possible funding options.

Notes: Mr. Gaby provided the Commission with a brief presentation with regard to a proposed restoration of 219 School Street. Mr. Gaby shared some copies of photos of the property with the Commission. Mr. Gaby requested a letter of support from the Commission to send to the MHC as he is likely to seek funding from MHC. Mr. Gaby noted he is working on obtaining a permit for work on the porches initially followed by additional restoration work on the house. Mr. Gaby is planning on the roof and porch work beginning in the spring of 2022. Commissioner Hoess-Brooks asked Mr. Gaby what was needed in tax credits for the project. Mr. Gaby stated \$25,000 to start but any additional amount was currently unknown. Mr. Gaby explained that since the house was occupied he did not want to delay the project. Commissioner Robison is interested in determining the date the house was built. Commissioner Hoess-Brooks encouraged the Commission to try to locate as many photos and/or documents of the house as possible. Staff stated a letter of support could be drafted but more information from Mr. Gaby was required to do so. The Commission voted to have Staff draft a letter of support to review at their November 2021 meeting, for Mr. Gaby to send to MHC.

Motion to have Staff draft a letter of support was made by Linda Menard-Mruk and seconded by Dave Robison. Vote was 5-0 to approve.

Member	Approve	Deny	Abstain
Linda Menard-Mruk	X		
Raymond Hoess-Brooks	X		
David Robison	X		
Louise Osetek	X		
Timothy Wagner	X		

Item 3: Minutes from September 14, 2021

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Linda Menard-Mruk and seconded by Timothy Wagner. Vote was 5-0 to approve.

Member	Approve	Deny	Abstain
Linda Menard-Mruk	X		
Raymond Hoess-Brooks	X		
David Robison	X		
Louise Osetek	X		
Timothy Wagner	X		

Item 4: Adjournment (Next meeting is November 9, 2021)

Motion to adjourn was made by Timothy Wagner and seconded by Raymond Hoess-Brooks. Vote was 5-0 to adjourn.

Member	Approve	Deny	Abstain
Linda Menard-Mruk	X		
Raymond Hoess-Brooks	X		
David Robison	X		
Louise Osetek	X		
Timothy Wagner	X		

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 PM.